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TAGS: ETRN UR

SUBJ: INITIAL WORK ON BAIKAL-AMUR RAILWAY: KOMSOMOL

SHOCK DETACHMENTS ARRIVE IN SIBERIA

REF: MOSCOW 5008

1. SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA ARTICLE REPORTS INITIAL WORK ON NEW BAIKAL-AMUR RAILWAY LINE BY KOMSOMOL SHOCK DETACHMENTS NOW ARRIVING IN SIBERIA. ARTICLE INDICATES THAT FIRST WORK ON RAILWAY BEGAN TWO YEARS AGO. END SUMMARY.

2. MAY 4 IZVESTIYA CARRIES PHOTOGRAPH AND ARTICLE REPORTING ARRIVAL IN AMUR OBLAST OF TRAINLOADS OF YOUNG WORKERS TO TAKE PART IN CONSTRUCTION OF BAIKAL-AMUR RAILWAY. DESCRIBED AS FIRST FIGHTERS OF ALL-UNION SHOCK DETACHMENT NAMED AFTER SEVENTEENTH KOMSOMOL CONGRESS, GROUP REPORTED TO INCLUDE MEMBERS FROM FORTY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND ALL PARTS OF SOVIET UNION.

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3. IN COURSE OF UPBEAT DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES TAKING

PLACE IN SMALL EAST SIBERIAN VILLAGES AS RESULT OF RAILWAY'S CONSTRUCTION, ARTICLE INDICATES THAT INITIAL WORK NOW UNDERWAY. AT TYNDINSKIY, PLANS CALL FOR DAILY EXCAVATION OF 20 TONS OF EARTH AND ROCK FROM NEARBY YANKANA MOUNTAIN, WITH KOMOSOMOL WORKERS ALREADY IN ACTION. WORK DIRECTED BY SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION FOR BAIKAL-AMUR MAGISTRAL THROUGHWAY CONSTRUCTION (BAMSTROYPUT) WHICH AS HEADQUARTERS AT TYNDINSKIY. SPECIAL HOUSING FOR NEW WORKERS ALREADY CONSTRUCTED AND AWAITING ARRIVAL MORE VOLUNTEERS.

4. ELSEWHERE, AT SKORORODINO STATION ON TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY, SPECIAL TRAIN CARRYING MEMBERS OF SHOCK DETACHMENT ARRIVED MORNING MAY 3. AFTER WELCOMING CEREMONIES BY LOCAL OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF BAM CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, PART OF GROUP PROCEEDED TO TYNDINSKIY AND REMAINDER TO SHIMANOVSKIY WHERE INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION COMPLEX FOR BAM IS LOCATED.

5. COMMENT. WE NOTE THAT ARTICLE INCLUDES STATEMENT THAT "IT WAS JUST TWO YEARS AGO (AT TYNDINSKIY) THAT FIRST DETONATION ON OLD ROUTE (TRASSE) ANNOUNCED THE BEGINNING OF THE BIG PROJECT, AND SINCE THAT TIME TYNDINSKIY HAS GROWN ALMOST THREE TIMES IN SIZE." THIS INDICATES THAT WORK HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE 1972, BUT ONLY NOW MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR AS PRIORITY OBJECTIVE FOLLOWING BREZHNEV'S SPEECH AT ALMA ATA IN MARCH. REFERENCE TO "OLD ROUTE" MUST REFER TO INITIAL SURVEY PLANS FOR BAIKAL-AMUR LINE WHICH WE UNDERSTAND PRE-DATE WORLD WAR II. OXFORD ATLAS MAPS OF EASTERN SIBERIA CONTAIN DOTTED LINES SHOWING PROJECTED RAILWAY ROUTE FROM TAYSHET TO KOMOSMOLSK THROUGH UST-KUT, MUYA AND TYNDINSKIY.
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